

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 295 VICE 294) X

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN COMMENT ON MBFR

1. SUMMARY. BULGARIANS HAVE BROKEN RECENT SILENCE ON MBFR WITH BRIEF MENTION OF TALKS IN POLITBURO MEMBER KUBADINSKI'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON 25 TH ANNIVERSARY USSR- BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY. NEWSPAPER STORY FROM VIENNA URGES PATIENCE AND SAYS PRESENT SITUATION NO CAUSE OF PESSIMISM. END SUMMARY.
 2. FIRST HIGH- LEVEL REFERENCE TO MBFR PREPARATORY TALKS IN MANY WEEKS MADE BY PENCHO KUBADINSKI IN COURSE OF MAR 16 SPEECH COMMEMORATING FIRST SOVIET- BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY. REVIEWING SUCCESSES OF WORLD SOCIALIST MOVEMENT KUBADINSKI NOTED BULGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN MBFR PREPARATORY TALKS AS EXAMPLE THEIR PEACE- LOVING POLITICAL LINE.
 3. RABOTNICHESKO DELO MARCH 17 CARRIES STORY FROM VIENNA CORRESPONDENT POINTING OUT THAT " NEW STYLE" OF QUIET DIPLOMACY IN VIENNA CAN OFTEN ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN FORMAL PLENARY MEETINGS. ABSENCE OF VISIBLE PROGRESS IS NO REASON FOR
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PESSIMISM. FACT IS, ACCORDING TO STORY, " THAT NOT ONE PARTICIPANT THINKS THE TALKS ARE SERIOUSLY THREATENED." ALTHOUGH PRESENT IMPASSE ATTRIBUTED TO NATO' S FAILURE TO MAKE CLEAR PROPOSALS ON DEFINITION OF " CENTRAL EUROPEAN" AREA OF REDUCTIONS, INFORMAL MEETINGS HAVE ADVANTAGE OF NOT FORCING PARTICIPANTS INTO " WIN- LOSE SITUATION" AND MAKE COMPROMISE EASIER. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH QUOTE OF CZECH FONMIN CHNOUPEK THAT CSCE PREPARATIONS HAVE TAKEN ALMOST 6 YEARS AND THAT VIENNA TALKS HAVE BEEN IN SESSION ONLY 6 WEEKS.

4. COMMENT: KUBADINSKI' S ADMITTEDLY BLAND REFERENCE TO MBFR IS NOTEWORTHY IN THAT IT BREAKS LEADERSHIP SILENCE ON TALKS. UP TO NOW BULGARIANS , PERHAPS LEERY OF FUTURE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION, HAVE PLAYED TALKS VERY QUIETLY. WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY REASONABLE TONE OF R. D. ARTICLE WHICH SEEMS ALMOST DESIGNED TO DAMPER FEARS THAT TALKS MAY BE JEOPARDIZED, WHEN IN FACT SO LITTLE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ON TALKS IT SEEMS HARD TO IMAGINE ANY SUCH FEARS COULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED IN BULGARIA. HOUSTON

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